The Weekly Amusement

From Saturday Decem.r 24th 1763
To Saturday Decem.r 29th 1764

OR

An useful and agreeable Miscellany of

Literary Entertainment

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Tending to inform the Judgment instruct the Understanding improve the heart & correct the Taste

TOGETHER WITH

An Historical Detail of the Publick Transactions & Occurrences of the Year 1764

Printed for R. GOADBY, and Sold by
WILL.M LEE, at the Bible near Cripplegate
London.

Delightful hours! O, thus for ever flow;
Led by fair FANCY round the varied year;
So shall my breast with native raptures glow,
Nor feel one pang from folly, pride, or fear.
Firm be my heart to NATURE and to TRUTH,
Nor vainly wander from their dictates sage;
So JOY shall triumph on the brows of youth,
So HOPE shall smooth the dreary paths of age."

A MONODY, *on the Death of Mr.* Charles Churchill.

YE verdant laurels, and ye gloomy pines,
Ye fragrant myrtles & the mournful yew;
Your leafy honours to resign prepare,
That I, with friendly care,
May deck our *Churchill's* tomb; to him they're due.
Occasion sad, sad office ever dear,
For 'tis the last we ever can bestow:
Since thy harmonous soul has taken flight,
Receive from us the tribute of our woe.
Fatal *Boulogne*, there *Churchill* met his fate,
There *Churchill* dy'd, and has not left his peer:
But shall we bear him silent on the bier
While the loud laments stun the adverse shore;
Shall they still weep, and shall not we do more,
Than barely give him the last parting tear?
Him, our dear country's boast, her favorite son,
Fair freedom's patron, and the muse's flame,
Who to his aid, in haste, together came,
Hoping to save, but nothing could be done:
Loudly they shriek'd, as they approach'd the Bed:
And Nature echo'd, the great CHURCHILL's dead.
Begin *Melpomene*, the funeral song,
Touch, with bold hand, the loudly sounding string,
Raise thy sweet voice, but let it still be strong,
Equal to him to whom it does belong:
For thou of all the nine the dirge must sing.
Apollo hear, and grant my just desire,
Since thy own son, the genius of our isle,
Is gone—for ever gone---and never more,
Must he return, to bless this weeping shore:
Some other mortal with his soul inspire,
Lest Vice should triumph and get head the while,
For he in virtue's cause did still engage,
And lovely freedom all his soul inspir'd;
Vice felt the force of his poetic rage,
Unable to withstand his pen, retir'd.
Form'd was his head, and ready was his hand,
Nor venal L——ds, nor M——rs, would spare;
To lash the highly Vicious was his care,
And to expose the harpies of the land.
Freedom he sung, in such enchanting strains,
Freedom, the hills re-echo'd to the plains.
Apollo heard, and inward grieving sigh'd,
He greatly mourn'd the loss of one so dear;
'Till quite o'ercome, he threw his harp aside'
And down his check stole the ambrosial tear:
Then sought BRITANNIA, but long sought in vain
Among her cliffs, and on her rocky shore,
'Gainst which the waves, in headlong fury, drove,
And the loud winds assaulted from above,
There she had often sat and told her pain:
But now her Griefs were greater than before,
And she at DOVER wasted all her store
Of Tears; while o'er her fav'rite's tomb,
In melancholy posture long she stood
Quite motionless and dumb.
At length her grief found vent, and she began,
In words like these——the verse alternate ran.
Now will the good and virtuous greatly mourn,
The fate of him, so lov'd, and so admir'd;
Now will they pour their sorrows o'er his urn,
And weep the bosom quench'd, that freedom fir'd.
Why should we blush to weep for one so dear,
For one already in the list of fame?
Why should we shame to drop the tender tear,
For one whose works will eternize his name?
Here must he rest, and here will I remain,
And be the constant guardian of his grave;
Here will I vent my sorrows to the main,
And wail the fate of him I could not save.

Bristol. S. SH---RS.

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EXPLANATION of the FRONTISPIECE.

Minerva, the Goddess of *Wisdom*, introducing a Youth to *Literature*, which is symbolically represented by the Female Figure sitting on the Ground with a Book in her Lap, close to which sits one of the Muses as an Emblem of *Poetry*, also to *Gardening*, represented by the Goddess *Flora*, and *Agriculture*, who is represented holding a Sickle; alluding to the Entertainment and Instruction in Literature, Gardening, Agriculture, &c. to be found in the WEEKLY AMUSEMENT.

THE PREFACE.

IT has been uſual for Compilers of periodical Works to ſay ſomething to their Readers at the Beginning of a new Year; and this has generally been very high Encomiums of their Performances. We ſhall content ourſelves with ſaying, that we have with great Pains and Aſſiduity collected ſuch Pieces as we judged to be of real and laſting Uſe, and ſuch as ſeemed to us to afford a rational and agreeable Entertainment; and

and we hope they have appeared ſuch to our Readers. This at leaſt we can ſay, that moſt of the Pieces have been taken from Writers of highly eſtabliſhed Reputation both for the Purity of their Stile, and the Juſtneſs of their Sentiments. And in this we think the Work has a Superiority over other periodical Publications, which are chiefly adapted to a *temporary* Peruſal *only*; whereas this, we flatter ourſelves, may be referr'd to at any Time with both Pleaſure and Benefit.

It is but a Piece of Juſtice to the Engraver to ſay that we think he has well executed his Part. The great Variety of Subjects, and the pleaſing pictureſque Manner in which they are done, muſt be allowed to be a very conſiderable Ornament to the Work; and we imagine it may with great Juſtice be ſaid, that in this Reſpect it is ſuperior to any Work of the Kind hitherto publiſhed. —Well executed Cuts always afford a Pleaſure to the Eye, and as our's repreſent

preſent the different Inhabitants of the World, their Figure, Habits, Ceremonies and remarkable Places; and uncommon Animals; the Mind will re-receive Entertainment from them as well as the Eye.

Upon the whole, when the Purchaſers of our Work conſider what a Variety of uſeful and entertaining Subjects our Work contains for the laſt Year; the Number of the Copper Plates, and the Hiſtorical Detail they have of all the Publick Occurrences and Tranſactions of the foregoing Year, to be a conſtant Regiſter by them to conſult on any Occaſion; we flatter ourſelves they will look upon the Work as of Value, and deem that we have fulfilled our Propoſals.

We ſhall only add, that as the Stores of Literature are in a Manner inexhauſtible; we may promiſe to continue to furniſh the like agreeable and uſeful En-

Entertainment to the Public, as we have hitherto done; if not improve upon it: for the Encouragement we have received will excite us to exert our moſt ſtrenuous Endeavours to deſerve it.